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JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Mark Miller
Representative Mark Pocan

Date: February 9, 2010

Re: DOC Report on Mental Health in Prisons

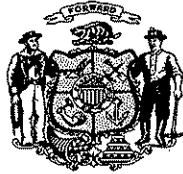
Attached is a copy of an annual report from the Department of Corrections pursuant to s. 301.03(6m), Stats., regarding prisoners transferred to a mental health institute, prisoners being treated with psychotropic drugs, and mental health services available to prisoners.

This report is being provided for your information only. No action by the Committee is required. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Attachment
MM:MP:jm

Jim Doyle
Governor

Rick Raemisch
Secretary



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State of Wisconsin
Department of Corrections

February 2nd, 2010

Senator Mark Miller, Co-Chair
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Representative Mark Pocan, Co-Chair
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Robert Merchant, Senate Chief Clerk
Room B20 SE, State Capitol
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Patrick Fuller, Assembly Chief Clerk
17 West Main St, Room 401
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Sirs,

The following information is provided for your consideration and review pursuant to §301.03(6m), Wisconsin Statutes. The figures below pertain to calendar year 2009.

There were ninety-two Chapter 51 mental health commitments within the Department of Corrections. Of these, forty-six were initial commitments and forty-six were extensions of commitments from previous years.

Eighty-two of the ninety-two commitments were obtained at the Wisconsin Resource Center (male inmates). Of these, forty-one were initial commitments and forty-one were renewals of commitments from previous years.

Ten of the ninety-two commitments were obtained at Taycheedah Correctional Institution (female inmates). Of these, five were initial commitments and five were recommitments from previous years.

After a Chapter 51 commitment, male inmates returned to the Wisconsin Resource Center (WRC) for further treatment. Average length of stay for WRC inmates was 428 days. Three male inmates were transferred from WRC to Mendota Mental Health Institute on an involuntary basis.

After a chapter 51 initial commitment, females were transferred to Winnebago Mental Health Institute (WMHI). For recommitments, females remained at TCI. In addition, three females were transferred to WMHI and received treatment on a voluntary basis. Average length of stay for committed individuals was 13 days.

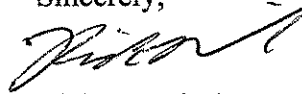
2) The total number of inmates who were treated with psychotropic medication in 2009 was 8,051. This number includes inmates who were incarcerated for short-term stays as well as

long-term stays. The number of inmates who were treated with psychotropic medication on any specific date is estimated at approximately 4,750. Of these, the number treated on an involuntary basis was the same as the number of involuntary commitments (ninety-two). Major classes of medication included antidepressants, antipsychotics, and mood stabilizers.

3) Mental Health Services are available at all of the major institutions. Services include crisis intervention, individual counseling, and group therapy. Specific programs include sex offender treatment, anger management, domestic violence, substance abuse treatment, and cognitive interventions. Psychiatrists are available at all major institutions to provide evaluations for psychotropic medication and management of these medications. In addition, consultation is available from both psychologists and psychiatrists to evaluate competency to consent to psychotropic medication and/or medical treatment.

If you have any questions or need any further information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Raemisch", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rick Raemisch
Secretary

cc: Secretary Karen Timberlake